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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,330	12/20/2001	Isabelle Rollat	05725.0922-00	5705

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EXAMINER

YU, GINA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,330

Applicant(s)

ROLLAT ET AL.

Examiner

Gina C. Yu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 185-191, 193-203, 205-208, 210-216, 218-228, 230-240, 242-245, 247-253, 255-258, 260-266, 268-278, 280, 290, 292-302, 304-307, and 309-311 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/3/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 3, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 185-191, 193-203, 205-208, 210-216, 218-228, 230-240, 242-245, 247-253, 255-258, 260-266, 268-278, 280, 290, 292-302, 304-307, and 309-311 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the independent claims, claims 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, and 181, claims recite a copolymer comprising at least one monomer "***chosen from***" a single, specific ester of alkyl or hydroxyl alkyl acrylate. Such recitations render the claims vague and indefinite because there seem to be alternative limitations, while the claims in fact requires specific monomers.

The remaining claims are rejected as depending on indefinite base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 185-191, 193-203, 205-208, 210-216, 218-228, 230-240, 242-245, 247-253, 255-258, 260-266, 268-278, 280, 290, 292-302, 304-307, and 309-311 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tongerson et al. (US 5019377) in view of Yang et al. (US 6013722).

Tongerson teaches using low glass transition temperature (0-80 °C) adhesive polymers as hair holding polymers to make shampoos and conditioners. See abstract. The reference teaches that shampoos typically comprise 1-25 % of the adhesive polymer and 5-60 % of a synthetic surfactant. See col. 11, lines 28 - 48. See claims 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, and 181. The reference also teaches that adding cationic surfactants such as quaternary ammonium salts at a level ranging from 0.01-10 % is convention and well known to one skilled in the art. See col. 11, line 49 - col. 12, line 3. See instant claims, claims 168, 172, 175, 177, and 181. Other conventional additives of instant claim 195 are also taught therein. The hair holding polymers are said to comprise one or more monomer components having homopolymers with relatively low glass transition temperatures, with at least one monomer component being selected from acrylate ester or methacrylate esters. See col. 3, lines 17 -56. The preferred (meth)acrylate esters include butylacrylate, n-

butylmethacrylate, 2-ethylhexylacrylate, or the mixture thereof. See col. 4, lines 31 -42.

The reference teaches in col. 4, lines 17-31:

In addition, if relatively hydrophobic copolymer is desired (e.g., for use in shampoos and conditioners), relatively hydrophobic monomers are utilized. Thus, simple manipulation of the weight ratios of the monomers during synthesis of the copolymers and appropriate selection of the relative hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity of the monomers utilized followed by analysis of the resulting copolymers' single glass transition temperatures, permits easy synthesis of copolymers useful in the present invention having the desired combination of single glass transition temperature and solubility.

The reference also teaches that the hair holding polymers have various applications including topical compositions, beauty mask, and adhesives. See col. 6, lines 60 -68.

As for claims 168, 172, 175, 178, and 181, the reference teaches that conditioners preferably comprise a lipid vehicle material such as cetyl alcohol and stearyl alcohol (conditioning components) and a cationic surfactant. The reference also teaches that the hair holding polymers have various applications including topical compositions, beauty mask, and adhesives. See col. 6, lines 60 -68. As for claims 168, 172, 175, 178, and 181, the reference teaches that conditioners preferably comprise a lipid vehicle material such as cetyl alcohol and stearyl alcohol (conditioning components) and a cationic surfactant.

The reference lacks a specific exemplification of the preferred copolymer, crosslinkers, and pH.

Yang et al. teach a pressure sensitive adhesive emulsion (cosmetically acceptable medium) comprising 50-90% n-butyl acrylate, 10-50% 2-hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, and 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate, and optionally a cross-linking agent.

Divinylbenzene multifunctional aziridine amides are taught as the cross-linking agents. The adhesive has a pH between 1 and 7. The adhesives are taught as water-resistance and as imparting low haze to products comprising the adhesives. See abstract; col. 2, lines 20-33; col. 3, line 25- col. 5, line 55; col. 13, line 60-col. 16, line 16.

As for claims 177, 178, 180, and 181, claimed copolymer comprises at least one 30-40 % of n-butyl acrylate. While the Yang reference teaches 50-90 % concentration of the monomer, varying the weight ratio of the monomer would have been within the skill of the art. Generally, differences in concentration or temperature will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration or temperature is critical. "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." See In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955). It is viewed obvious to have found optimal or workable weight ratio of the monomers taught in Yang, particularly in view of Tongerson, because Tongerson teaches that it requires a "simple manipulation" to vary the weight ratio of the monomers during the synthesis of the copolymer to select appropriate solubility of the polymer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the hair styling composition of Tongerson by substituting the adhesive polymer with the adhesive copolymer comprising n-butyl acrylate/2-hydroxy ethyl (meth)acrylate/2-ethyl hexyl acrylate monomers as motivated by Yang because 1) Tongerson teaches using relatively hydrophobic acrylate

copolymers to make shampoo and conditioners, wherein n-butyl acrylate and 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate are preferred; 2) Yang teaches that its adhesive copolymer imparts low haze thus clarity to the final products. The skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of successfully producing clear shampoos and conditioners with hair styling properties.

The recitation "reshapable" denotes a physical property of the claimed composition. Whether a composition imparts reshapable styling effect on hair depends on the active components that make up the composition. It would have been obvious to the skilled artisan that, the composition of the combined references, which comprise the surfactants of Engel and the adhesive polymer of Yang, provides a reshapable effect on the hair as claimed by applicants.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 167, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 185-191, 193-203, 205-208, 210-216, 218-228, 230-240, 242-245, 247-253, 255-258, 260-266, 268-278, 280, 290, 292-302, 304-307, and 309-311 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gina C. Yu whose telephone number is 571-272-8605.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gina Yu
Patent Examiner



SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 167,168,171,172,174,175,177,178,180,181,185-191,193-203,205-208,210-216,218-228,230-240,242-245,247-253,255-258,260-266,268-278,280,290,292-302,304-307 and 309-311.